

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 178 without my signature.

This bill seeks to establish a statewide groundwater elevation monitoring program and would require the resulting groundwater information to be readily and widely available on or before January 1, 2010.

I recognize that this bill is attempting to provide new, useful information about groundwater elevation. However, this bill places significant and enormously costly requirements on the Department of Water Resources (Department) to undertake a great deal of work without assuring any guarantees of the receipt of any new information regarding groundwater elevations within any basin in the state.

The Department estimates that this bill would result in costs approaching \$40 million in the first five years of effort to fulfill its intent. Without also providing the necessary funding, this bill would force the Department to siphon scarce resources away from its existing core mission programs.

The Department will continue its efforts to collect groundwater data and to work with the landowners to ensure appropriate information is available. However this bill would likely not provide sufficient new information to justify the expense.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger